No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/05/02 : LOC-HAK-185-4-67-9

HAK
SCOWCROFT
L.L.

STATE DENIES U.S. PLANES INVOLVED IN M.E. WAR

ZZ
RNR132
1410 :MIDEAST-DENIAL:
WASHINGTON, OCT. 13, REUTER--THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY BRANDED TODAY AS MISCHIEVOUS AND GROUNDLESS REPORTS THAT AMERICAN PLANES AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR.
SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID THE REPORTS WERE REMINISCENT OF THE SO-CALLED "BIG LIE TECHNIQUE" THAT WAS EMPLOYED IN THE 1967 MIDDLE EAST WAR IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WAS BLAMED.
THE SPOKESMAN, REFLECTING OBVIOUS IRRITATION OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, SAID THERE WAS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER TO REPORTS THAT U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES WERE INVOLVED IN HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA, OR THAT A PHANTOM JET BEARING AMERICAN MARKINGS AND PILOTED BY AN AMERICAN HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN ON FRIDAY OVER DAMASCUS.
LASTLY, HE SAID, THERE WAS NO INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING BY U.S. MILITARY FORCES OR PERSONNEL.
;;MORE WS/GM 1421

1812

ZZ
RNR133
1419 :MIDEAST-DENIAL 2 WASHINGTON:
"MOST DISTURBING IS THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE EMANATING FROM ARAB QUARTERS WHERE ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAVE ASKED THE UNITED STATES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS THEY CAN," MCCLOSKEY SAID.
OTHER OFFICIALS NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH NO AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL OR PLANES WERE INVOLVED IN THE WAR, THERE WAS LITTLE THAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT AMERICANS WHO MIGHT VOLUNTEER PRIVATELY TO SERVE WITH ISRAELI FORCES.
MCCLOSKEY'S REMARKS WERE MADE AT A RARE SATURDAY NEWS BRIEFING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DURING WHICH HE SAID THE RUSSIAN AIRLIFT OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO EGYPT AND SYRIA WAS CONTINUING AT WHAT APPEARED TO BE A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL RATE.
HE WARNED: "IF THIS PERSISTS, IT IS GOING TO CREATE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES."
AT A NEWS CONFERENCE FRIDAY, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TERMED THE RUSSIAN AIRLIFT SUBSTANTIAL BUT MODERATE AND INDICATED THAT THE STAGE HAD NOT BEEN REACHED WHERE RUSSIAN ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD BE CALLED IRRESPONSIBLE.
;;REUTER WS/GM

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/05/02 : LOC-HAK-185-4-67-9